
Adult Medical Emergencies:

Phenothiazine / Dystonic Reaction

I. All Provider Levels



Note Well: A dystonic reaction occurs as an idiosyncratic reaction to a phenothiazine or butyrophenone (Haldol) compound. Frequently no clear history or medication use is obtainable, therefore this reaction should be treated based on its clinical presentation.

1. Refer to the Patient Care Protocol.
2. Provide 100% oxygen via NRB. If respiratory effort is inadequate assist ventilations utilizing BVM with 100% oxygen.



II. Advanced Life Support Providers

1. Establish an IV of Normal Saline KVO or Saline lock.
2. Administer Diphenhydramine 50 mg IV.
 - A. If IV access is unobtainable, administer Diphenhydramine 50 mg IM.



Note Well: Although diphenhydramine (Benadryl) is used to treat this reaction, it is not an allergic reaction to the medication. The patient should be informed of this distinction. Dystonic reactions which may require field treatment to alleviate patient discomfort may present as the following: facial grimacing with poor ability to voluntarily relax tensed facial muscles.



III. Transport Decision

1. Transport to the closest appropriate open facility.

***Adult Medical Emergencies:
Phenothiazine / Dystonic Reaction***

This Page Intentionally Left Blank
